(c) whether the price of silver has also risen considerably; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The prices of gold in India as given in the table I below have shown an increasing trend since the repeal of the Gold (Control) Act with effect from 6-6-1990. However, since gold is not an essential commodity, the Government does not regulate its price. Available reports also indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country and the quantities and value of gold seized during the last few calendar years are given in the table II below. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate the extent of smuggling of gold.

The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and close co-ordination is being maintained between all agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling of contraband including gold.

TABLE-I

Average prices of gold per 10 grams in Bombay

May, 1990	December, 1990	January, 1991	December, 1991
Rs. 3,323	Rs. 3,369	Rs. 3,606	Rs. 4,870

TABLE-II

	1989	1990	1991
Quantity of gold seized (in kgs.)	8215	5721	4926
Value of gold seized (approx.) (Rs. in crores)	259.60	192.60	187.00

(c) The prices of silver in India during the same period given in the Table III below indicate a rising trend during 1991

TABLE-III

Average prices of Silver per kg. in Bombay

May, 1990	December, 1990	January, 1991	December, 1991
Rs. 6,712	Rs. 6,404	Rs. 6,818	Rs. 7,650

(d) Since silver is also not an essential commodity, the Government does not regulate its price. The anti-smuggling machinery remains alert against the smuggling of contraband including silver.

Foreign Exchange Remittance by NRIs Under Various Schemes

130. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the foreign exchange remittance by NRIs under various schemes launched by Government scheme-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to extend the date of any of these schemes;

(c) if so, what are details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to give more attractive benefits to NRIs for augmenting foreign exchange inflow into country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total amount received under the Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme upto 31.1.92 was Rs. 1907.5 crores and the total amount received under India Development Bonds Scheme upto 31.1.92 was $ 1035.8 million and £ Stg. 154.5 million firm figures will be known only by the end of February.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government reviews from time to time the policy for investment by NRIs to augment foreign exchange inflow.